

MESSAGE

OF HIS EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR CLINTON,

To the House of Assembly,

JANUARY 18th, 1821.

GENTLEMEN,

The resolution of your honourable house, of the 16th of November, relative to an intimation in my speech, at the opening of the session, has been respectfully considered, and duly appreciated—and I shall now communicate to you, agreeably to your request, the evidence in my possession relative to the improper interference of the officers of the general government in the local concerns of this state.

That many of the officers of the United States have, for a number of years, acted very improperly, by interfering in the elections of this state, must be known to every man in the community who has had opportunity for information, and whose mind is not steel-ed by prejudice against the admission of truth : At the last election this influence was manifested in such a variety of shapes, and in such a very exceptionable manner, that I considered it my duty to refer to it : And in performing this duty as a magistrate, and in availing myself of a right possessed by every citizen, to express his opinion of the conduct of public men, I did not consider it necessary that I should be provided with documentary testimony, nor did I suppose that at an extraordinary session of the legislature, held for a special purpose, it would be deemed advisable to deliberate on any of the matters indicated in my speech. And I was confirmed in this impression, so far as it respects this subject, when I adverted to the resolution of the senate then before you, proposing to adjourn on the next day—and to a resolution of your house, passed on the 18th day of November, for adjourning on the 20th. Under these circumstances, I thought proper to delay this communication until the present session. And when I make this observation, I must be permitted to state, that whenever I am called on for information, by any branch of the legislature, in a proper manner and in a proper case, I shall always attend to the request with pleasure ; but I shall reserve to myself sufficient time to prepare a satisfactory answer. And the universal understanding, in parliamentary practice, has been, that if the information requested is afforded in time for full legislative deliberation and decision, no exception ought to be taken.

In animadverting on the obtrusion of extraneous influence in the politics of this state, I was desirous of arresting the progress of a great evil, by attracting the public attention to its predominance. And I was not without hopes, that the national legislature would consider it a fit case for the salutary exercise of its high authorities. In the inquiry which has been recently instituted into the conduct of one of the departments of the national administration, some of the abuses which will be developed in this message may be deemed a fit subject for cognizance ; and I am persuaded, that the general investigation which has been made, will have a beneficial tendency, even if it be not followed by any measures of punishment.

Considering the immense patronage which must be necessarily entrusted to the executive government of the union, the constitution of the United States has wisely declared " that no senator or representative shall during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time ; and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either house during his continuance in office;" and " that no senator or representative or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States shall be appointed an elector of president and vice president." The object of these provisions is to preserve the independence of the national legislature and of the electoral colleges, and to maintain the purity of republican government. The same salutary provisions for analogous beneficial objects have been extended to the state legislatures, and all the state constitutions formed since the proposal of the national constitution in 1787, declare in substance that no member of congress, or officer of the United States, shall have a seat in the state legislature. There are in some constitutions, variations in the provisions, but they all embrace in a greater or less degree the spirit of the excluding principle. In those states which had adopted constitutions before the establishment of a national government, there is of course no constitutional prohibition—but it is understood that in such case statutes have been passed to the same effect. Virginia, whose constitution was formed in 1776, has a very comprehensive law on the subject. Pennsylvania, in addition to a constitutional restriction, has a statute which prohibits officers of the United States from acting as judges, inspectors or clerks of state

elections. The constitution of this state was formed in 1777, and altho' no statute has been passed on this subject, yet by a concurrent resolution of March 1790, it was resolved as the sense of the legislature, that it is incompatible (according to the constitution of this state and of the United States,) that a member of congress, or other person holding any office whatsoever under the United States should be a member of the senate or assembly of this state during his continuance in congress, or in such office; and that whenever a member of the legislature shall be elected or appointed a member of congress, or to any office whatever under the United States, and shall accept of such office or appointment, it is hereby further resolved, that his seat in the legislature ought to be vacated. Even in the government of Great Britain, officers of the excise and customs, and clerks or deputies in the treasury, navy, victualling and admiralty offices, and a long list of other dependents on the crown, are interdicted from being elected or sitting as members of the house of commons.

Every officer of the United States is in a state of partial disfranchisement. He cannot sit in congress, in the state legislatures or in the electoral colleges—In the view of the constitution, he is an object of jealousy; he can however at any time be restored to all the franchises of a citizen by abdicating his office. Our government is founded on the representative system; it protects the purity and independence of the representative; it erects a barrier against the inroads of executive patronage, and it intends that the constituent body should be free from the operation of the same influence. In reserving to the national officer his elective franchise it was undoubtedly contemplated that it should be exercised in the genuine spirit of republicanism; that the suffrages of the citizen could not be biassed by the emoluments and honors of the officer, and that he should not carry into the elections, any of the influence derived from his official station; and I trust that it will be universally admitted, that the national government ought not to confer or withhold offices with a view of creating influence in state politics. It is well known that in this state, the national administration has for some years selected in almost every case of any importance, its officers in opposition to the state administration, and this undoubtedly operates as an encouragement to organized and disciplined hostility. It is a virtual instruction to its officers to oppose, and it is an invitation to all who are desirous of the patronage of the general government, to embark in the opposition.

The interference of the officers of the general government in state politics in 1798, was at that period a subject of general and well founded complaint: in the interval between my first election and entrance into office, I took the liberty of apprising Mr. Monroe, the president of the United States, of the obtrusive intermeddling of the officers of the general government in our state politics, and of my earnest hope that under his administration this system so justly and so generally reprobated, would be no longer tolerated. In discharging this duty to the republic, I entertained every wish to promote the most amicable relations between the general and state administration, and I can truly declare that no act of hostility has been in any shape manifested or encouraged on the part of the authorities of this state.

The documents which I have now the honor to transmit to you, do not extend beyond the last general election & the agitations preceding and accompanying it. At the very period when the officers of the United States, who have behaved so reprehensibly, ought to have conducted themselves with the greatest delicacy; when a legislature was to be chosen that was to appoint the electors of president: and when the second officer of the United States was a candidate for the office of governor, all the influence of their offices was put in requisition and brought into activity. Although deprived of the right of being chosen, yet if in the exercise of the right of choosing, they are permitted by the power of office to influence elections, what security have the people for a pure legislature, for an independent congress or for an incorrupt college of electors? On this occasion I take a pleasure in stating, that notwithstanding the practices complained of were marked with signal impropriety in the general operations of the navy yard, in King's county, yet I do not know of a single instance wherein a naval officer who distinguished himself during the late war, has conducted himself improperly. The officers of the army stationed in this state have furnished, generally speaking, no ground of complaint. And the custom house officers, on the lakes, so far as I can learn, have behaved in an unexceptionable manner. In exercising the rights of suffrage, they have I believe generally abstained from bringing any official influence in any shape to bear upon the controversy.

The navy yard is situate in Brooklyn, King's county, and contains about 40 acres. Large sums of money have been expended there in building and repairing ships of war, and an extensive establish-

ment is maintained in that place. The documents herewith transmitted will shew, that under the principal direction of Mr. Decatur, (the naval storekeeper,) the blacksmiths, caulkers, carpenters, laborers, and other persons in the public employ at the navy yard, were brought up to vote—that he was assisted in his operations by other officers of that establishment—and that improper attempts were made in a variety of shapes to operate on the electors. The whole presents a scene of undue influence and extraneous intrusion revolting to every friend of republican government. The papers marked from A to L inclusive, establish the charge beyond the possibility of refutation, and the certificate marked M, from the first judge of the county of Kings, places the credibility of the witnesses beyond doubt.

The patronage of the custom house in New-York is immense. There are no printed documents which disclose the number and compensation of the officers employed in that establishment, as the resolution of congress of 27th April, 1816. directing a compilation and printing of a register once in every two years, of the officers of the United States, has not been complied with in respect to the subordinate officers of the customs of New-York, I can therefore only state as a matter of estimate, that the patronage of that establishment approximates to 200,000 dollars annually. The surveyor of the port, Mr. Joseph G. Swift, has the immediate direction of the inspectors and other subordinate officers of the customs; and altho' he has not the power of displacement, yet they are in such a state of dependence, that their personal comfort must directly, and their official existence indirectly, depend on his volition. In order that there might be no doubt of his determination to interfere in the state election, he reported, as a member of a committee to a public meeting in King's county, the resolution marked N. When the situation, connexion, and political principles of this officer of the United States are considered, there can be no doubt, but that he had previously ascertained the sense of his political superiors, and that he was instructed to act accordingly. In pursuance of this example the two inspectors of the customs at Staten Island, interfered in the most improper manner in the election—the papers marked O. P. Q. R. S. T. will establish this charge and the certificate marked U. given by the first judge of Richmond county, goes to prove the unquestionable good character of the witnesses. The papers marked V. & W. will also shew the conduct of some of the inspectors in the city of New-York.

In such an immense population it is difficult to trace the course of individuals particularly, but it is believed that the few friendly officers of the customs were intimidated into entire neutrality, and that the mass of the influence of that institution was made to exhibit a hostile attitude to the state administration. The law regulating the compensation of the inspectors of the customs authorizes the allowance of three dollars a day, for the days that they are actually employed. These documents prove that seven of those officers were employed in electioneering; and I presume it will not be denied that each individual received three dollars a day from the public treasury when so engaged.

The resolution marked W, V, of the citizens of Buffalo, complains of the undue interference of the officers of the general government in that quarter. The chairman of that meeting, Mr. John E. Marshall, informs me, "That this resolution was intended to be a censure upon the general political conduct of those persons residing in Niagara county who are attached to the commission for establishing the boundary line between the United States and Canada. It is very notorious that those men, and all their dependents, have for two years been actively and zealously engaged in opposition to the state administration—At the last spring election they were peculiarly industrious, some of them frequently declaring that they were determined to revolutionize the county and state." The direct compensation of these officers amounts to nearly 12,000 dollars a year, and their expenses are believed to be very considerable.

The conduct of the judge of the United States of the northern district of this state, is daily before the eyes of the legislature. The marshals have acted in co-incidence with the general current of extraneous influence, and in their selections of deputies to take the census, they have, as far as I can learn, studiously excluded all those applicants that were friendly to the state administration. The conduct of Mr. Robert Tillotson, one of the district attorneys, and nephew of the president of the United States, is glanced at in the paper marked X.—and that of Mr. Jacob Sutherland, the other district attorney, and nephew of the secretary of the navy, is mentioned in the paper marked Y. It will give me pleasure to find, that there is error in some of these imputations; but of their officious and improper interference, generally speaking, there can be no doubt. There are three newspapers employed by the government for publishing the laws of the Union, in this state, and

these consisted of the Argus, National Advocate, and Ontario Messenger, until within a few weeks, when the business was taken from the last paper, and committed to the Times, in Batavia, a gazette of recent date, of comparatively limited circulation, and hostile to the state administration.

There are, I believe, 674 post-masters in this state, and I should estimate the aggregate patronage of the department in the state at large, at 100,000 dollars annually. During the able and impartial administration of the predecessor of the present post-master general, these offices were conferred without any reference to state politics. Attempts have been made, at different times, to cause the removal of post-masters friendly to the state administration and I am sorry to say that in several instances they have succeeded. The papers marked Z. will exhibit the case of Mr. Hezekiah L. Granger, who, in the spring of 1819, was removed from the office of post-master at Manlius. The papers marked A.A. are an expose of the removal of Alpheus Doty from the post-office at Sandy-Hill. This removal, it appears, was effected through the instrumentality of Mr. Roger Skinner, who resided in the same village. Mr. Doty, who has since died, had incurred the resentment of Mr. Skinner for his support of the state administration, and he was accordingly marked out for a victim, and in December, 1818, his removal was solicited by Mr. Skinner in the city of Washington. To effect this purpose, it would appear, that the good offices of Mr. Henry Meigs were employed to operate on his uncle, the post-master general. It appears that the post-master general had determined to make the removal on Mr. Skinner's representation alone. The petition was signed by violent partizans, and the reasons assigned in it were only ostensible.—And there is this singular circumstance attending this transaction—The papers directing the displacement, were enclosed to Mr. Skinner; and it was not, it appears, in his estimation, a sufficient punishment to effect the removal of a good citizen and faithful officer, under false pretences, but his humiliation must be witnessed by his political adversaries, who were apprised of the event, and were called in to exult over his fall. The papers marked BB. will shew the removal of the post-master at Caldwell. This was also principally accomplished through the agency of Mr. Skinner, and upon the same grounds of party excitement. His letter to the post-master general, on this subject, could not be found. The paper marked CC. refers to the removal of Mr. Brown, the post-

master at Hartford, in Washington county, which was also the result of the same spirit. In March, 1819, Mr. Jacob Van Ness was removed from the office of clerk of the county of Dutchess; and Mr. Peter R. Livingston, a senator from the southern district, publicly declared, as I am credibly informed, that the then post-master at Poughkeepsie should be removed from office, and Mr. Van Ness appointed in his place. This event actually took place, and indicates an understanding and co-operation between a department, at least, at Washington and a political party in this state.

Although these measures were unequivocal in demonstration, and reprehensible in character, yet they were not deemed sufficiently energetic for the crisis. And, accordingly, on the 4th of April, 1820, twenty-one days before the general election, Mr. Martin Van Buren, chairman of the meeting which nominated Mr. Tompkins for governor, addressed the following letter to Mr. Henry Meigs, the nephew, before alluded to, of the post-master general.—“ My dear sir—Our sufferings, owing to the rascality of deputy post-masters, is intolerable, and cries aloud for relief. We find it absolutely impossible to penetrate the interior with our papers, and unless we can attain them by two or three prompt removals, there is no limiting the injurious consequences that may result from it; let me therefore entreat the post-master general to do an act of justice, and render us a partial service, by the removal of Holt, of Herkimer, and the appointment of Jabez Fox, Esq.—Also of Howell, of Bath, and the appointment of an excellent friend. W. B. Rochester, Esq. a young man of the first respectability and worth in the state,—and the removal of Smith, at Little-Falls, and the appointment of Hollister,—and the removal of Chamberlain, in Oxford, and the appointment Lot Clark, Esq. I am in extreme haste, and can therefore add no more. Use the enclosed papers according to your discretion, and if any thing is done, Let it be quickly done, and you may rely upon it, much good will result from it. Yours, affectionately, M. Van Buren. April 4th, 1820. The Hon. Henry Meigs.” The ostensible object of this letter is the displacement of certain post-masters on account of alleged mal-practices, but the real design was to subserve the purposes of party. The removal of a few distinguished post-masters would serve as a monition to the 674 post-masters in the state to come out as electioneering partizans against the state administration, or to maintain silence. The improper and corrupt

practices imputed to post-masters by Mr. Van Buren, are, no doubt, entirely unfounded. The private characters of those gentlemen are perfectly respectable, and their official conduct had never, as I understand, been impeached before that period. "If any thing is done, let it be quickly done, and you may rely upon it, much good will result from it." That is, let it be done before the election, and many votes will be acquired.

The letter of Mr. Van Buren produced the removal of Messrs. Chamberlain and Smith, two of the Post Masters mentioned in it. It seems that Mr. J. R. Drake, then a member of Congress, interfered very officiously against a Post Master living out of his district. And it is believed that the removal of Mr. Leonard, whose case will be hereafter mentioned, was accomplished through his instrumentality : It appears that Mr. Drake cultivated an influence when in Washington, sufficient not only to injure men much more respectable than himself, but to secure a contract with the government which he considered of some consequence. Mr. Howell was kept in his office, by a personal acquaintance with Dr. Bradley of the general post office, who very properly exerted himself to continue the services of this excellent officer for the benefit of the department. Mr. Holt was not removed until the 7th of December last, after the resolutions of a party meeting, marked DD held on the 30th October last, were forwarded to the Post Master General. It is said by the Post Master General, that Mr. Holt was considerably delinquent, and failed for a number of quarters to render his accounts according to law. In order to establish the reality of this reason, the application of removal ought to exist in every similar case ; but an intimation has been publicly and repeatedly made of a great delinquency, & no notice has been taken of it ; and I am greatly mistaken if many cases do not exist where the returns required by law have not been duly made, and which have notwithstanding been passed over without animadversion.

The papers marked EE, probably contain the true statement of this case. The papers marked GG, relate to the removal of the Post Master, at the Little Falls ; And the affidavits of the Honorable Robert Monell and Joseph S. Lyman, marked FF, will illustrate the general character of the transactions. On the 15th April, 1820, Mr. Stephen B. Leonard was removed from the office of Post Master at Owego. The letter announcing this is in the words following, to wit : "Post Office Department, 15th April, 1820,--Sir, your being a mail contractor, and the only printer in

the place where you reside, it is considered that your holding the office of Post Master, gives you an undue preference over other citizens and printers, not justified by the usual practice of this department. With your conduct as Post Master, I am well satisfied. Respectfully, yours, &c. R. J. Meigs, jr.—Stephen B. Leonard, Esq.” The report of the Post Master General, marked HH, made at the present session of Congress, shews that there are 58 Post Masters who are at the same time contractors for carrying the mail ; and it is well known that in three important cities, the Post Masters are at the same time proprietors and editors of newspapers ; and it cannot be presumed that the circumstance of Mr. Leonard’s being the *only* printer in Owego, would increase the force of the general objection. In this case there would be no immediate rival establishment which he would be interested in injuring by virtue of his official situation. The case of Mr Leonard is particularly mentioned in the paper marked II. The documents marked JJ, KK, LL, MM, and NN, are corroborative of the other proofs, and exhibit some interesting views of this subject.

There are in all probability scenes of equal if not greater turpitude, which cannot be exposed on account of the peculiar situation of individuals, dependent for their livelihood, in maintaining silence, interested in concealing abuses, desirous of screening personal or political friends, averse to encounter the vituperation which will ensue—apprehensive of personal injury from the desperation of detected malefactors, or looking to a particular quarter for favours to themselves or connexions. Under these circumstances it would be impossible for any department of the government, even if armed with the power of compelling testimony, to attain a full knowledge of the abuses complained of. In the present case, it was rendered still more difficult from the want of official authority to take cognizance of the investigation. And when it was instituted with a view to the obtainment of documentary testimony, the offenders were fore-warned, and had ample time to take measures for the suppression of the truth.

It is, I conceive, impossible to resist the unfavourable conclusions which must be drawn from the body of testimony now submitted to you. Making full allowances for exaggeration or error, for the influence of prejudice and the operation of improper motives,—and admitting that a considerable portion of the allegations may be successfully refuted, yet still there will remain a sufficient number of strong and established facts, to prove a concert

of exertions on the part of the officers of the national government—in the Navy Yard, the Custom House, the General Post Office, and in the Judicial and some other institutions of that Government operating in our local elections: and which demonstrates the existence of an organized and disciplined corps, and the obtrusion of extraneous influence for the purpose of promoting the aspirations of ambition—of securing the possession of authority, or of breaking down the power of the state, by the encouragement of intestine divisions: And this is a case in which the maxim—*He orders the commission of a crime who does not forbid it, when it is in his power*—may be justly and emphatically applied. The least intimation from the proper quarter, would have effectually prevented these notorious and alarming evils.

To all sincere friends of Republican Government, and such, Gentlemen, I believe you all to be, this statement must present subjects for serious reflection. Without the existence of State Governments, it is impossible for us to enjoy the blessings of free government. And without a National Government, we would be involved in wars at home, and have but feeble security against attacks from abroad. Both are essential to the freedom, the safety, the prosperity and the honour of our country. The National Government is from the necessity of the case, armed with controlling authority over the revenues and physical force of the country. In its military and naval establishments—in the arrangement of the National domains—in the disposition of its diplomatic intercourse—in the collection of taxes—in the immense patronage which it derives from the numerous and lucrative offices in its gift—and in the allurements which are consequently held forth to ambition and cupidity, we perceive the foundation of an influence which may be arrayed with a force almost irresistible against the independence and stability of the State Governments. It may be truly observed that in proportion to the population of the United States, no government has more numerous and efficient means of directing and controlling public opinion. And when we consider that few of the States have any funds or resources except what are derived from taxation; that the compensation of their public officers is comparatively small; and that the heads of their Executive and Judicial departments have been even sometimes induced to accept offices under the National Government, subordinate in importance, but superior in emoluments; we must at once perceive the difficulties which the State Authorities might have in opposing the

improper influence of the National Government. And when we further consider that in all probability there would be no unity of views or coincidence of exertions operating at the same time, in the States, while the National Authority might make its approaches by singling out particular States, and advancing against them with its combined and consolidated force, we have every reason to exercise the utmost vigilance, and to interpose all proper barriers against undue encroachments. A government of influence and corruption is the worst possible shape which a republican government can assume, because under the forms of freedom, it combines the essence of tyranny. And although I am far from saying, that this is now the case, yet the first attempts to give a wrong direction to the authority of government, ought to be resisted. Slavery is ever preceded by sleep. And the liberties of free states are more frequently prostrated by fraud, than by force. In the intelligence and patriotism of the body of our fellow citizens, we may, I trust, rely for the preservation of our free governments. And with an anxious desire to merit their good opinion by a faithful and independent discharge of my important duties, and with an entire disregard of any hostility which may arise from any quarter in consequence of my pursuing this course, I submit this communication to the Representatives of the people, fully persuaded that when the personal animosities and party agitations of the times are buried in oblivion, I shall be considered by impartial posterity, as having endeavoured to deserve well of the Republic by my conduct on this occasion.

DE WITT CLINTON.

Albany, 17th January, 1821.

Documents referred to in the foregoing Message.

(A)

I do certify, that during the election last spring, for governor, lieutenant governor, &c. I was a challenger at the poll held at Brooklyn, and saw col. J. P. Decatur, naval store keeper, bring up several persons from the navy yard to vote, and making himself very busy during the whole three days of the election, and declaring repeatedly, that he would bring up his carpenters, blacksmiths, and caulkers, in succession. One day in particular, he stated, "well, now you have had the carpenters, to-morrow you shall have the blacksmiths." When the votes from the navy yard came up, col. Decatur always attended on them to the box for receiving votes, unless they came up with some of the master mechanics of the yard. The second day of the election, col. Decatur brought up a person from the navy yard, having the naval button on his coat, and who was challenged, as an illegal voter, and refused to take the oath required by law to qualify him for a vote.

The last day of the election, col. Decatur came again up with him, and insisted on his taking the oath; the person commenced, and was again interrupted by one of the inspectors, and recommended not to take the oath, for it appeared very doubtful whether he was entitled to a vote; nevertheless, col. Decatur kept persisting; but the man, on being told to beware of the consequences, declined, and left the poll. The master blacksmith headed the blacksmiths from the navy yard when they came to the poll. I often saw sailing master Bloodgood busily engaged in the poll room repeatedly, and bringing up votes.

JOHN DIKEMAN.

Brooklyn, 21st Dec. 1820.

(B)

I do certify, that during the election last spring, for governor and lieutenant governor, I was frequently at and about the polls; that during the time I was so about the polls, I saw John P. Decatur bring up men from the navy yard in squads, to vote; that said Decatur was violent in his expressions, and actions; dealing out tickets, brow beating the men who approached the polls in order to vote for De Witt Clinton, and denouncing said Clinton as an enemy to the general government.

And I do further certify, that Brockholst Livingston, an officer in the custom house in New York, was also active at the election against De Witt Clinton, and as well as said Decatur, made great and extraordinary exertions to injure said Clinton in his re-election, and spoke of him as an enemy of the general government.

JOHN HUNTER.

(C)

I, the undersigned citizen of the United States, and inhabitant and freeholder of the town of Brooklyn, Kings county, and state of New-York, do solemnly declare that I attended the poll for electing governor, and lieutenant governor of this state, at the election in April last, and most of the time during the election; and that the officers of the general government of the United States, (with some few exceptions) were excessively opposed to the administration of governor Clinton, and made the most extraordinary and improper efforts to prevent his re-election, and in some instances excited the dread and the fears of my fellow citizens, lest they might experience personal injury, as well as discharges from public employment under them, or from the navy yard of the United States, that the said officers were actively engaged in bringing up to the polls all persons under their control, altho' there were occasional instances of a desire to vote for governor Clinton as a chief magistrate of this state, yet they informed me that it would injure their interest with their employers, and I was requested not to expose their intentions and desires to the officers, in giving said

votes. Among the officers who excited the greatest noise and violence of feeling were col. Decatur, and officer Bloodgood: the former, receiving as it were, bodies of men, by detachments, and marshaling them up to the polls, in the most boisterous and threatening manner, and declared he would bring up one hundred men or more, by himself and friends, from the navy yard, which I have no doubt is true as to numbers, and afterwards on my observing my astonishment, and great dissatisfaction—the extraordinary interference of the officers of the U. States government, in the election of our state officers (to an officer of distinction) and particularly the proceedings of Col. Decatur, I was informed by him that if he himself were present, when I so expressed my surprise and dissatisfaction, that he would down with my house, and the conduct of officer Bloodgood, was very indecently outrageous, and used threatening language and blows, and so much irritation was exemplified by him otherwise, (and having his military appearance) as intimidated, peaceable quiet citizens from exercising and while exercising their privileges in voting at the election.

W. THOMPSON.

New-York, Oct. 16, 1820.

Sworn to, before me, this 16th day of December, 1820.

WILLIAM SEAMAN, Commissioner.

(D)

This may certify, that I attended the poll at Brooklyn, during the late election of governor and lieutenant governor, I saw John P. Decatur come up to the poll at the head of squads of men who are labourers in the navy yard. I heard Decatur say, that he had brought up the carpenters to day, and should bring up the riggers and blacksmiths to-morrow. Purser Wise, was also active in bringing up, and inducing men to vote. Sailing master Bloodgood was also at the polls, and was very quarrelsome, and had a fight with a man. Decatur urged many to vote against gov. Clinton, on the ground that he was opposed to the administration of the general government. The master blacksmith of the yard, named Dixon, came up at the head of a squad. Mr. Cosgrove, a gunner of the yard, drove a chair, to carry people to the polls. Mr. Cheney, a master labourer in government service, came up at the head of a gang of men who labour in his department of the yard. I am very confident that a considerable number of the men thus brought up from the navy yard were not legal voters. A sutler near the navy yard, by the name of Johnson, was ascertained to be friendly to gov. Clinton.—Decatur attempted to turn Johnson, but when he found it ineffectual, he observed to Mr. Delany, "Never mind, we can fix the damn'd rascal."

DANIEL WRIGHT.

Brooklyn, Dec. 20, 1820.

(E.)

This is to certify, that I was a challenger at the poll in Brooklyn, during the late election for governor, lieutenant governor, &c. that I saw John P. Decatur, Purser Wise, and sailing master Bloodgood, very active at the polls. Mr. Bloodgood drove a chair to bring up voters to the poll—that Mr. Cosgrove, gunner, also drove a chair for that purpose—that I heard Decatur say he had not yet brought half his force; but should on the third day of the election give the Clintonians a black eye, by bringing up the blacksmiths and others—that I did see the blacksmiths come up in a body, headed by the master blacksmith, Dickinson—that sailing master Bloodgood was very quarrelsome at the poll, and during one of these quarrels I saw him with his coat off, and a dirk in his hand, which he put in his bosom—the dirk had been once before taken from him by Mr. Langdon, as I understood—that in my opinion there were near two hundred persons brought up by the navy officers to vote—I am of opinion that many of these persons were not legal voters—I heard Decatur and Bloodgood, (and, as I believe, Mr. Cheney, master labourer) repeatedly declare that any man ought to be damn'd who would vote the Clintonian ticket, as Clinton never was a friend to the general government—that Mr. Decatur attended during the three days, distributing tickets and often challenging the voters—that he brought up a man twice, who was a labourer in the yard, urging him to take the oath, after he had been rejected by the inspectors—Bloodgood, in company with Decatur, brought a man up twice who had the navy button on his coat, and urged him to swear, but he was rejected by the inspectors. On the last day of the election five or six persons were brought up at one time by Decatur, who were rejected as not being legal voters.

JOHN DEZENDORF.

Brooklyn, Kings county, 25th Dec. 1820.

(F.)

In a conversation with Col. John P. Decatur, naval storekeeper on the New-York station, some time in November last, he related that during the last election at Brooklyn he had brought up fifty men to the polls, most of whom were not entitled to votes, and, as an instance of his influence & electioneering talents, stated that he had offered the Rev. Parson Ireland, chaplain of the navy yard, the bucktail tickets, which the parson was willing to vote with the exception of the assemblymen—to which Decatur replied that if he did not vote all of the tickets, he should not vote any; and that unless he voted the whole, he was going shortly to Washington and would represent the thing there, and would see whether he would any longer be maintained by a government which he did not support—in consequence of which the reverend parson was induced to vote the whole bucktail ticket.

Flatbush, Kings county, Dec. 1820.

I do certify that if the honourable the senate should deem it expedient to send for persons, the within statement can be substantiated by two respectable witnesses.

JOHN C. VANDERVEER.

(G.)

I do certify, that during the election last spring, for governor, lieutenant governor, &c. I was frequently at the poll held at Brooklyn. I saw Col. Decatur, who is naval storekeeper, bring up companies of men from the navy yard to the poll to vote for Tompkins side—Col. Decatur said one day at the poll, in presence of many people, "to-day I have brought up the carpenters, and to-morrow I mean to bring up the blacksmiths and caulkers"—when the men came up at one time, Decatur was standing on the stoop, and when he saw the men, he brandished his cane and cried out, "clear the way, there come my troops from the navy yard" When the carpenters came up to vote, Cheney, the master laborer, headed them, and when the blacksmiths came, Dickerson, the master blacksmith, headed them. During the election, sailing master Bloodgood, was very noisy and outrageous, bullying governor Clinton's friends. Purser Wise, also electioneered against governor Clinton. I saw Cosgrove the gunner going through the town in various ways in a chair, and bringing up men to vote against the state administration, on the second day of the election.

——— Burlet came to me and said "they (the navy officers) have been to see me, and they say that if I do not vote for Tompkins' side, they will take away their business—they will give me no more business."

JAMES BOYD.

(H)

I do certify, that previous to the last election for governor, &c. Dr. Hunt stated to me, he intended to vote the Clintonian candidates, that after the election I understood that Dr. Hunt had voted the bucktail ticket, and I shortly after met him in Flatbush, and enquired of him how he came to vote different from what he intended, he replied that he was influenced by the officers of the navy yard at Brooklyn, as he was employed in the capacity of surgeon in the said yard.—And I do further certify, that in a conversation with John P. Decatur, an officer in the navy yard about the beginning of November last, he stated and confessed that he had influenced and controlled Dr. Hunt to vote the bucktail ticket.

Witness my hand at Flatbush, Dec 26, 1820.

CORNELIUS BERGEN.

(I)

I do certify, that on or about the 14th day of November, 1820, I met John P. Decatur, at Mr. Voorhees' tavern in this place, that he appeared

very much elated by the intelligence that the enemies of governor Clinton, had the majority in the legislature, and had obtained a council of appointment.—And I do certify, that said Decatur, declared in the course of conversation, that he had brought up a hundred votes, at the last election, for the bucktails —And I do further certify, that said Decatur, was engaged during the whole time of the election at Brooklyn, and that he alluded, in making the remark above stated to the exertions he had made in that place.—And I do also certify, that said Decatur was at that time an officer in the service of the United States, attached to the navy yard at Brooklyn, and as I have understood and believe, the naval storekeeper therein.

JOHN C. VANDERVEER.

Flatbush, Dec. 16, 1820.

(J.)

I do certify that on or about the 14th of November, 1820, I met John P. Decatur at Mr. Voorhees' tavern in this place—that he appeared very much elated by the intelligence that the enemies of Governor Clinton had the majority in the legislature, and had obtained a council of appointment—and I do certify that said Decatur declared in the course of the conversation, that he had brought up nearly a hundred votes at the last election, for the bucktails—and I further certify that said Decatur, as I verily believe, was engaged during the whole time of the election at Brooklyn, and that he alluded, in making the remark above stated, to the exertions he had made at that place—and I also certify that said Decatur was at that time an officer in the service of the United States, and attached to the navy yard at Brooklyn, and, as I have understood and believe, the naval storekeeper therein.

GERRIT KOWENHOVEN.

Flatbush, Dec. 18, 1820.

(K.)

I do certify, that during the last election for governor and lieutenant governor, &c. the gunner of the navy yard called upon me at my house, with a chair, and urged me to vote for the ticket opposed to Governor Clinton—and I then told him, that, although I was employed in the yard, and its work was important to me, I had my principle, and I had made up my mind to vote the other ticket. When I came to the poll, I saw John P. Decatur, and Purser Wise there; and said Decatur pressed me to vote for the ticket opposed to De Witt Clinton, and told me, in order to induce me to vote for his ticket, that he had done me good in the yard, and was willing to do me more.

MARTIN BURNET.

(L)

We the subscribers, inhabitants and freeholders of the county of Kings, do certify, that during the last election for governor, lieutenant governor, &c.

and from that period till the meeting of the legislature in November last, many of us have from time to time had conversations with divers inhabitants of Brooklyn, and have frequently visited that place; and we do further certify, that the conduct of the officers of the navy yard at the said election, was often alluded to in said conversations—that the universal impression and opinion of those whom we conversed with on the subject, was, that the whole influence of the navy yard had been exerted to defeat the election of governor Clinton, and the tickets friendly to his administration, and that great and extraordinary exertions were made by many of the officers in said navy yard for that purpose. December 13th, 1820.

John C. Vanderveer, Cornelius Berger, Elias Hubbard, jun. Gerrit Vanderveer, John S. Ditmas, John Lott, A. L. Ostrander, Adrian Vanderveer, John C. Bergen, John Vanderbilt, Abraham Vansickler, Simon Rapelye, John R. Snedeker, John Lott, jun. Gerrit Kouvenhoven, John Terhune.

(M.)

I, William Furman, do hereby certify that John C. Vanderveer, Cornelius Bergen, Elias Hubbard, Jun. Gerrit Vanderveer, John S. Ditmas, John Lott, A. L. Ostrander, Adrian Vanderveer, John C. Bergen, John Vanderbilt, Abraham Van Sickler, Simon Rapelye, John R. Snedeker, John Lott, Jun. Gerrit Kouvenhoven, John Terhune, Daniel Wright, John Dezendort, John Hunter, James Boyd, John Dyckman, William Thompson and Martin Burnet, are respectable inhabitants, and freeholders of this county, with the exception of four, that their characters as good and valuable citizens are irreproachable; that most of them were brought up on Long Island, and are now, and for a long time past have been, independent farmers, and that they are entitled to the full confidence of the public.

WILLIAM FURMAN.

Kings county, Dec. 30, 1820.

(N)

“At a meeting of the republican citizens of the county of Kings, convened pursuant to public notice, given for that purpose, at the house of Samuel Carman, in the town of Flatbush, on the 7th of March, 1820, John Lefferts, Esq. was chosen chairman, and William Conselyea, jun. secretary.

“The meeting being organized, it was *Resolved*, That a committee of seven persons be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the sense of this meeting, and report as soon as possible; when the following gentlemen were appointed—viz: Jehiel Jagger, gen. Joseph G. Swift, Tunis Joraleman, John Garrison, Dr. Cornelius Lowe, John W. Van Nuyse, and Isaac Snedeker. The committee having retired for a short time, reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

“Resolved, That we highly approve of the administration of the government of the Union ; that we have the fullest confidence in the president and vice president of the United States, and in the persons composing the cabinet of the executive.

Resolved, That we approve the mode pursued by the members of the two houses of the legislature, in recommending candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, and we do hereby tender our warmest thanks to those members of the legislature, who, on the 22d day of February last, in a public meeting held at the capitol, in the city of Albany, pursuant to previous notice, nominated Daniel D. Tompkins for governor, and Benjamin Mooers for lieutenant governor.

“Resolved, That we have entire confidence in the moral and political integrity and character of Daniel D. Tompkins ; that we behold in him the long tried patriot and statesman ; that it was by his exertions and recommendation during our late war, that the fortifications on the west end of this island were erected, and thereby our wives and children were enabled to sleep in security, and our property was protected from the ravages of a powerful and desolating enemy ; that it was by his exertions in a great measure, that the city of New-York, the emporium of our state, was preserved from plunder and conflagration, and the inhabitants from the fate and horrible condition of those at Hampton and Havre de Grace ; that we will give him our united suffrages for governor at the ensuing election, and leave an example to posterity, that ingratitude is not always the portion of the patriot.

“Resolved, That we will support Benjamin Mooers as a candidate for the office of lieutenant governor, at the ensuing election. He was a soldier of the revolution, and is entitled to the love of his countrymen. He had the command of the troops of this state at Plattsburgh, during the late war, and is entitled to a share of the glory of that victory over the British fleet on Lake Champlain, which purchased for M'Donough an immortal name.

“Resolved, That we view with the utmost detestation and abhorrence, the systematic scheme which has been pursued by De Witt Clinton, Archibald McIntyre, and the calculating Williams, to destroy the character of Daniel D. Tompkins.

“Resolved, That we consider the administration of De Witt Clinton as anti-republican ; that since his elevation to the gubernatorial chair, he has proscribed and removed from office, republicans of the school of Washington and Jefferson, and has appointed to their places, men in whom we have no confidence—men who, during the late war, advocated the detestable principles of the Hartford convention, and who called aloud for a separation of the northern from the southern states ; that although he recommended to the legislature to charter no new banks, yet, at the session of the same legislature, he signed the act incorporating the Franklin bank. His friends have declared him to be a republican and a patriot—his acts have contradicted their assertions.

"*Resolved*, That we consider it as highly necessary, that the character of our judges should not only be pure, but unsuspected—that we consider it as dangerous to our liberties, and degrading to the state, for those who sit in judgment upon our fortunes and lives, to lay aside the robes of office, and mingle in the party feuds of the day—that we can have no confidence in the judicial decisions of such of our judges as exercise the influence which their stations give them, in exasperating the minds, and in exciting the political prejudices of any portion of the people.

"*Resolved*, That this meeting now proceed to appoint a delegate to represent this county in the senatorial convention, to be held at Tammany Hall, on the last Wednesday of March inst. when John Lefferts was unanimously chosen.

"*Resolved*, That John Lefferts, Isaac Snedeker, Joseph Smith, of Flatbush, John Bergen, Cornelius Stoothoof, and Abraham Vooris, of Flatlands, Dr. Cornelius Lowe, Thomas Morrel, and John I. Meserole, jun. of Bushwick, James Cropsy, Evert Suydam, and John W. Bennet, of New Utrecht; John Garrison, Burditt Stryker, John P. Decatur, John Spadee, Wynant Bennet, and Edward Coop, of Brooklyn, be a standing committee of the county, and that they call a meeting of the republican electors of the county for the purpose of nominating a suitable candidate to represent this county in the assembly of this state, when they may judge proper.

"*Resolved*, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the chairman and secretary, and published in the National Advocate, American, and Long Island Star.

JOHN LEFFERTS, *Chairman.*

WILLIAM CONSELYEA, *Secretary."*

(O)

I John W. Blake, inhabitant and freeholder of Staten Island, do certify, that at the election last spring held in this county for Governor Lt. Governor, &c. I attended as a challenger at the poll. On the first day of the election when the poll was held at Hazard's, at the Quarantine ground, William Van Buren and William Arnet, two officers belonging to the custom-house in New-York, were actively engaged in brow beating the electors hostile to the election of governor Tompkins, and friendly to the election of governor Clinton. Said Van Buren was so outrageous at me for exercising my rights as an elector, that he said he would give any man fifty dollars, who would tar and feather me. On the last day of the election, when the work was almost over, and all the mischief done that could be, I saw Van Buren and told him I would soon give him an opportunity of putting his threat into execution, and he then said he was sorry for what he had said, and hoped I would drop it.

JOHN W. BLAKE.

Castletown, Richmond county, 1830.

(P.)

I, Richard Wood, an inhabitant and freeholder in the county of Richmond, do certify, that at the last spring election for governor, lieutenant governor, &c. I attended the poll, and that William Van Buren and William Arnet, both custom house officers, also attended the poll, and that they were both very active during the said election, and warmly and violently opposed the election of De Witt Clinton. One day of the election Van Buren said to me, "as to that Captain Blake, I consider him a devil standing in the church."

RICHARD WOOD.

Castletown, Richmond county, 1820.

(Q)

I certify, that on the last day of the election, in and for the county of Richmond, in April last, for the purpose of electing governor, lieutenant governor, &c. I attended at the poll held at the house of Vincent Bodine, in Castletown, about three and a half miles from the quarantine ground, where I saw William Van Buren and William Arnett, two officers belonging to the custom house, in the city of N. York, actively engaged in giving out tickets, and denouncing all such as were friendly to the re-election of De Witt Clinton—that it was a subject of surprise and generally reported and believed, that Wm. Van Buren had offered 50 dollars to tar and feather John W. Blake, one of the challengers at the election.

WILLIAM W. BLAKE.

Castletown, Richmond county, Dec. 1820.

(R.)

I, John Wood, inhabitant and freeholder in the county of Richmond, Staten Island, do certify, that on the last day of the election, held last spring for governor, lieutenant governor, senators, &c. I was at Bodine's tavern, where the poll was held on that day, and I there saw William Van Buren and William Arnett, both of them custom house officers, belonging to the custom house in New York—and I heard Van Buren admit that he had said he would give fifty dollars to see John Blake, who is a neighbour of mine, tarred and feathered.

JOHN WOOD.

Richmond county, Dec. 22, 1820.

(S.)

I do certify that during the late election for governor and lieutenant governor, I was on Staten Island, and frequently at the poll—that William Van Buren and William Arnet are officers in the custom house, and were unusually busy during the election in bringing up voters, handing tickets, brow beating and denouncing. And I do further certify that the said Wil-

liam Van Buren and William Arnet were violently opposed to the state administration—and that it was currently reported, and generally believed, that said William Van Buren used very abusive language against John W. Blake, and offered, during the election, to give any man fifty dollars, who would tar and feather said Blake, because of his politics.

N. COMBES.

New-York, December 15, 1820.

(T)

Richmond County, Castletown, 14th December, 1820.

I certify and declare that I attended the poll of the election for this county in April last, for the purpose of electing governor, Lt. Governor, &c. &c. that while I was there I saw William Arnet and William Van Beuren, two officers belonging to the custom house in New-York, busily and actively engaged during the first and last days of election in bringing up voters and distributing tickets—that they used great and extraordinary exertions—that they were decidedly hostile to Gov. Clinton, and spared no pains to annoy his friends by brow beating and denouncing them—that during the two days alluded to, the poll was held at Hazard's at the Quarantine ground and at Bodine's tavern in this town, about 5 miles from the Quarantine ground; and that Van Buren and Arnet, were so abusive, that I thought it ultimately prudent to retire. And I do further certify, that I verily believe, that during the time they attended the poll, they were receiving pay from the custom house without performing the duties incumbent on them—that while I attended the poll on the last day, it was currently reported and generally believed, that Van Buren had offered fifty dollars to any man who would tar & feather capt. Blake—that Abraham Parker, who voted for D. D. Tompkins, shewed me a deed for property which he said the said Tompkins had made him a present of, the ink of which was hardly dry, and that Parker said he had just received.

RICHARD E. BLAKE.

(U.)

I certify, that John Wood, Richard Wood, William W. Blake, John W. Blake, and Richard E. Blake, are respectable farmers, who were born and brought up on this island, and who have resided upon it from infancy—that they have always supported fair and good characters for probity, and deserve public confidence.

JOHN GARRETSON,

First Judge of the county of Richmond.

Southfield, Dec. 22, 1820.

(V)

I, John Peterson, do hereby certify, that during the three days of the last spring election, or for a great part of that time, George Jones, James

Anderson, Thomas Darling, and Benjamin Wood, were actively employed in promoting the election of Daniel D. Tompkins for governor, and also, in promoting the success of the other tickets hostile to the present state administration. That the above named persons were all opposed to governor Clinton, and spoke of him and his measures in disrespectful and hostile terms, alleging that he was opposed to the administration of the general government; and that they used their influence and exertions to prevent the re-election of governor Clinton, and the success of the candidates friendly to his administration. That the above named persons were all United States' officers, or employed by United States' officers, and that they were then all attached to the custom house in the city of New York. That although in the ordinary course of their official duties, their presence at the custom house may have been necessary or proper, yet they were a great part of the time during the three days of the last spring election, busily engaged at the poll in the fifth ward, in promoting the election of Daniel D. Tompkins, and the other candidates opposed to the present state administration. Dated New York, Dec. 13th, 1820.

JOHN PETERSON.

(VW)

I, John J. Riker, do hereby certify, that Benjamin Wood was actively engaged, during the three days of the last spring election, at the poll of the fifth ward in the city of New-York, in promoting the election of Daniel D. Tompkins, and the other candidates opposed to the present administration. That he charged Governor Clinton with being hostile to the administration of the general government, and spoke of him and his measures in terms of hostility—was extremely busy at the poll, interfering with the electors and endeavouring to prevail upon them to vote for Daniel D. Tompkins and the other candidates opposed to the state administration.—That he manifested much temper as well as interest, and was engaged in several controversies at the poll during the election. That the said Benjamin Wood was at that time a custom house officer in the city of New-York, but was at the said poll almost as constantly as the inspectors themselves.

JOHN J. RIKER.

New-York, December 14, 1820.

(WV.)

Copy of a resolution passed at a meeting of the citizens of the village of Buffalo, friendly to equal representation held on the 7th Dec. 1820.

Resolved, as the sense of this meeting, that the electors of this county have, at and since the last election, experienced much annoyance and inconvenience in the exercise of their elective rights and privileges, and in

their political deliberations from the salaried officers of the general government now residing in this county :—That the conduct of those officers in endeavoring to control and coerce the votes of the electors ; their frequent threats to revolutionize this county and to overthrow the present state administration, are viewed by this meeting as unwarrantable and dangerous assumptions of the rights of the people That the political corps composed of those officers regularly organized, and acting with energy and ample means afforded by their high salaries, is formidable and dangerous to our rights and institutions, and should be viewed with apprehension and distrust by every friend to state rights, and the purity of state governments"—[A true copy.]

JOHN E. MARSHALL, Chairman.

JAMES DILL, Secretary.

(X.)

I certify and declare, that in a conversation, some time in the month of October or November last, with Maj. Samuel Cooper, U. States agent for building fortifications, he said to me that two men were sent from Washington to this state, on or about the last election, to oppose the re-election of De Witt Clinton—that they went through the western district of this state to effect the above object, and that their electioneering expenses were paid at Washington. I then asked him who the two men above alluded to were, to which he replied that he could not or dared not tell.

And I further certify that William Eaton, who has a lottery office in Broadway, declared to me, a few days ago, that in April last he was in the office of Robert Tillotson, Esq. the United States district attorney, and while there he heard said Tillotson direct a gentleman to go to certain individuals in the western district, and to say to them that any office they wanted in that quarter, which was in the gift of the general government, should be given to them—upon inquiring of said Eaton what were the names of the persons mentioned by said Tillotson, he replied that he only recollected that of Norton, the man who lately encountered John C. Spencer in Canandaigua—said Eaton further understood and inferred, from what passed at the time, and now believes that these promises were made by said Tillotson as the authorised agent of the general government, and that the object was to induce the persons to oppose the election of De Witt Clinton.

ISRAEL KETCHAM.

New-York, Dec. 30, 1820.

In a subsequent conversation had with said Eaton, I inquired how it happened that Mr. Tillotson was so free and open before him, to which Eaton replied, that Mr. Tillotson knew him to be a bucktail.

ISRAEL KETCHAM.

New-York, Jan. 2, 1821.

(Y.)

Jonathan Knapp, Esq. of the town of Blenheim, in the county of Schoharie and state of N. Y. being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that at the last annual election for the choice of governor, &c. Jacob Sutherland, Esq. of said town was very active, and seemed much spirited in the event of the same, and manifested much anxiety; and to the best of this deponent's recollection, did circulate ballots for governor and lieutenant governor, as likewise for senators and members of the legislature. Said Sutherland was not one of the board of inspectors, but attended as an electioneerer the three days successively; said Sutherland being the owner or agent, or at least act. as such, of a considerable part of the land lying in the aforesaid town. It is the opinion of this deponent, and also the general opinion as this deponent verily believes, that his influence was greater with regard to the election in said town, than that of any other man, and further this deponent saith not.

JONATHAN KNAPP.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 6th day of Jan. 1821.

SILAS BRADFORD, just. peace.

Silas Bradford, Esq. of Blenheim, Schoharie county, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that he was present at the last anniversary election the three days successively; that Jacob Sutherland, Esq. district attorney of the northern district of the state of New-York so called, was present each day of the election, and appeared to manifest a considerable degree of anxiety in the event of the election; and this deponent further saith, that he verily believes that said Sutherland's influence, had as great an effect on the event of the election, as any other person in the county of Schoharie, he being an owner or agent of a large tract of land lying in said county, and further this deponent saith not.

SILAS BRADFORD.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, this 6th day of Jan. 1821.

JONATHAN KNAPP, com. &c. in and for Schoharie county.

Schoharie county, ss—R. W. Rulifson of the town of Blenheim, in the county of Schoharie, being duly sworn, saith, that he is acquainted with Jacob Sutherland, Esq. district attorney for the northern district of the state of New-York. That said Sutherland, is politically hostile to the present chief magistrate of this state, and that previous to, and at the last general election in this state, was very actively engaged in the political contest. This deponent has generally understood, and believes, that said Sutherland, previous to the said election, visited almost every family in the town of Blenheim, where he resides, with a view of influencing their votes at such election; and that as the agent of the late Chancellor Lansing, he threatened those who were in arrear for rent with prosecution, unless they would vote as he directed; and further saith not.

R. W. RULIFSON.

Sworn this 8th day of Jan. 1821, before me,

HERMANUS BOUCK, judge of the Schoharie com. pleas.

(Z.)

Hezekiah L. Granger of Manlius, in the county of Onondaga, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that in June, 1811, he received the appointment of deputy postmaster, in the room of Robert Wilson the former postmaster then lately deceased—that he held said office until the spring of 1819, at which time he was removed, and Nathan Williams, Esq. appointed in his place—that while he, the said deponent held said office, he never heard any complaint from any quarter, that the duties of his office were not faithfully discharged—that his removal was unexpected and without the least intimation from the post-master general, nor was it known to the citizens of the village who are principally interested in having a well regulated post-office, that any change was even contemplated; that after his removal, he addressed a respectful letter to the post-master general, requesting him to inform this deponent of the grounds of his removal, to which he has not been favoured with an answer. Several citizens of respectability likewise addressed the post-master general, making the same request to which no answers have been given. This deponent, further says, that a short time previous to his dismissal, he had after much exertion, recovered \$1,474 which had been stolen from the mail, prosecuted the offender who was convicted, and is now in state prison, suffering punishment for his offence. That he gave the post-master general immediate notice of the transaction, and received from him a letter of thanks for the *zeal and fidelity* of this deponent in the discharge of his official duties. And this deponent further says, that this, his removal, was at the time, and ever has been considered as the result of political management, and that only—and further says not.

HEZEKIAH L. GRANGER.

Manlius, Dec. 26th 1820.

Subscribed and sworn, this 26th day of December, 1820, before me,
SAMUEL MOTT, Com. &c.

We the undersigned, inhabitants of the village of Manlius, certify, that we were residents of said village while Hezekiah L. Granger, Esq. held the office of deputy post-master, and at the time of his removal from the same, and that we never heard of any complaint against said Granger relating to the discharge of his duty in said office; and that we verily believe that his removal was the result of political management, and that the office was given to the present incumbent, without consulting in any manner whatever, the wishes of those principally interested in a well regulated post-office in said village, and decidedly in opposition to a large majority of the inhabitants who are benefitted by said office.

Manlius, 29th Dec. 1820.

R. H. Hopkins, Amos Foot, James Smith, Nehemiah White, R. Bennet, Wm. Taylor, Guy Fox, Charles Williams, Nicholas P. Randall, Harvey Moseley, James Jackson, John Watson, Elijah Rhodes, Asa Nims, Youngs Ledyard, Joseph Farn.

Onondaga, ss.—James O. Wattles being sworn, saith, that he has been a resident of Manlius for about fourteen years, and during all the time, the post office there, was held by Hezekiah L. Granger, Esq. and that he believes the duties of the office were performed during that period, to the satisfaction of those concerned. That in the spring of 1819, it was rumoured in the village that said Granger was removed, and N. Williams, Esq. was appointed in his place, but of which the people of the village knew nothing, and had in no way manifested a wish for such change. That soon after the report, it was ascertained that a supersedeas and commission had been forwarded to N. H. Earle, Esq. post-master at Onondaga, which waited there some days for the return of Mr. Williams from Albany, during which time several letters were written to the post-master general, and a remonstrance signed by almost all the people of business of the village, to neither of which was any answer returned.

This deponent further saith, that he had several conversations with gentlemen opposed in politics to the administration of this state, on the subject of that removal, in which it was conceded and understood, that the removal was procured on political considerations, and that he never heard any other cause assigned.

JAMES O. WATTLES.

Sworn this 27th day of December, 1820, before me,

WILLIAM RAY, Com.

Onondaga county, ss.—Samuel Mott of Manlius, being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that he has resided in the village of Manlius since 1811, and that during that time, that Hezekiah L. Granger, Esq. was post-master of that place, he never heard any complaint, but what the duties of the office were faithfully discharged. That in the spring of 1819, the said Hezekiah L. Granger was removed from the office of post-master, and Nathan Williams, Esq. appointed to succeed him. That said removal and appointment, were entirely unexpected to the villagers generally, and this deponent verily believes were effected through the influence of men residing out of said village, and not particularly interested in the concerns of the post-office at Manlius aforesaid. This deponent further saith, that he addressed a letter to the post-master general, requesting the reasons why said removal and appointment took place, and also requesting that the villagers might have a voice in saying who should be appointed to fill the office, to which no answer was ever received by this deponent.—This deponent further saith, that on hearing of said removal, a remonstrance was circulated in said village and its vicinity, and signed by almost all of the men of business in said village, which was sent on to the post-master general. And this deponent further states, that it has ever been and still is considered, that said removal and appointment were effected entirely through political motives, and because the said Granger was

friendly to the present state executive, and the said Williams opposed to him.

SAMUEL MOTT.

Sworn this 27 Dec. 1820.

J. O. WATTLES, judge of Onon. com. pleas.

(AA.)

To the Honourable Return J. Meigs, Post Master General of the United States.

SIR,

The subscribers residing in the village of Sandy Hill, in the town of Kingsbury, county of Washington, and state of New-York, respectfully represent that the post-office within said village is one of considerable importance, and its accommodations and attendance ought, in some measure, to correspond with the business of the office; the office is now held by Alpheus Doty, who is a tavern keeper, and has no post-office, but a small corner of his bar room, partitioned with an open railing, and frequently the door is left open and letters and other deposits left exposed to the throng which are usual in bar rooms, it is also a fact, that the post-master and his deputy are very frequently absent, and if present oftentimes unaccommodating. Letters many times lie over for days after being called for, which occasions disappointment; in short we deem it unjust that the office should be any longer continued with the present incumbent, subject to the numerous complaints continually making, when it can be transferred into other hands perfectly satisfactory to the citizens at large. We, therefore, request that a supersedeas issue displacing Mr. Doty, and that Carmi Dibble, of the same place, be appointed in his stead. Mr. Dibble is a merchant, his residence well adapted for the office, a man of property, and of unimpeachable integrity, possessing an obliging disposition.

Yours with every sentiment of respect,

D. SHERRILL,

REUBEN MUSSEY,

J. B. LATHROP,

REUBEN C. GIBSON,

M. D. DANVERS,

NATH'L. PITCHER,

H C. MARTINDALE,

LUTHER WAIT,

STEPHEN LEE.

June 20th, 1820.

The Hon. RETURN J. MEIGS,

Albany, 15th March, 1820.

Dear Sir--The memorial which I left with Mr. Meigs of New York, the subject matter of which I mentioned to you, when I had the honor of calling on you in December.

I herewith enclose, hoping that it may meet your approbation, you manifested a willingness to make the removal and appointment without the petition, if I had wished it, but I thought it most expedient to forward on the same.

The petitioners are very desirous that it should be effected as soon as is practicable, with very great respect,

Your humble serv't. ROGER SKINNER.

I shall be at Albany until the middle of April, and will suggest the propriety of forwarding the papers to me at Albany.

The papers were sent as desired.

Sandy Hill, 19th Dec. 1820.

Relative to A. Doty's removal from the office of post-master, no documentary proof of the manner of his removal can be found—but none here doubts that it was done at the instigation of Skinner. We have the acknowledgment of the present P. M. that he was laid under a solemn injunction of profound secrecy when he was first consulted by Mr. Pitcher as to his receiving the appointment, and Mr. Doty had no intimation of his removal till he was served with a supersedeas by his successor, in presence of the bucktail party, who were called together to witness and exult on the occasion. Mr. Doty said, not long before he died, that he had written to the P. M. G. to inform him the reason of his removal, but received no answer. It is a well known fact that he was not removed on charges, and that his successor had no superior claims to the office, other than being devoted to the interest of R. Skinner.

R. CLARK.

(B B)

Caldwell, 22d December, 1820.

SIR—The post master general's letter informing me of my removal as postmaster of this place is dated the 17th March, 1820, of which I had notice about the 25th, and delivered over the post office effects on the 28th March to my successor. I had an intimation that Nathaniel Pitcher, Esq. one of the members of Congress from this district, had solicited Mr Meigs to remove me, and not knowing the grounds upon which the application was made, I on the 11th February, 1820, addressed a letter to Mr. Sanford, from which I make the following extract: I am told that an application has been made to the post master general to remove me as post master of this place; the emoluments of the office are of no consequence to any one, and I believe the duties since I have held it have been discharged to the satisfaction of the public. I know not the grounds upon which the application is founded, and wish to be informed."

The enclosed letter from Mr. Sanford which was addressed to Mr. Beach and myself on the envelope, is his answer to my enquiries and that of Mr. Beach, who had written him particularly to know if any charges were made against the manner in which the duties of the office had been discharged by me—from Mr. Sanford's answer I was aware, that the post master general did not mean to let me know if charges were exhibited against me, and believing his conduct in this particular, unwarrantable, and unworthy of the station which he held, I gave myself no further

trouble on the subject; as common justice, I did conceive, entitled me, when making enquiries of the proper officer, to be informed if any charges were made against my conduct, in the discharge of my official duties. I have the honor to be your obedient servant.

HALSEY ROGERS.

His Excellency De Witt Clinton.

Warren County, ss.—Edward Patten, Henry Thurston, James L. Thurman, John Beebe, Myron Beach, Timothy Hoskins, David Alden, Seth C. Baldwin, jun. being duly sworn, depose and say, that they reside in the village of Caldwell, and were acquainted with the manner in which the duties of postmaster were discharged by Halsey Rogers, Esq. late postmaster of this place, and are of the opinion, that the office was managed to the general satisfaction of the public, and those who had any intercourse with the office: and that Mr. Rogers was removed last March, by the postmaster general, as we have ever understood and believed, in consequence of his being a supporter of the administration of Governor Clinton, of this State: and that we have no knowledge of, nor do we believe, that any petition from the inhabitants of this place, was ever presented to the postmaster general, for the removal of Mr. Rogers.

Edward Patten, Henry Thurston, James L. Thurman, J. Beebe, Myron Beach, T. Hoskins, David Alden, Seth C. Baldwin, jun.

Subscribed and sworn this 18th day of December, 1820; before me—Seth C. Baldwin, jun. *Justice Peace.*

Subscribed and sworn by Seth C. Baldwin, jun. this 13th day of December, 1820; before me—John Beebe, *Justice Peace.*

Warren County, ss.—Joseph Tiffit, late sheriff of the County of Warren, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that during the time Halsey Rogers, was postmaster at Caldwell, he had frequent intercourse with the office, and a part of the time as sheriff, was in the receipt probably, of more letters than any other individual; and so far as this deponent has any knowledge and from his situation, he believes, he had as good an opportunity of judging as almost any other person; he is of opinion the duties of postmaster by Mr. Rogers, were honestly and impartially discharged.

JOSEPH TIFFIT.

Sworn before me this 21st November, 1820. J. Beebe, *Justice Peace.*

“Washington, 4th March 1820.”

“DEAR SIR—I duly received your letter of the 14th, and that of Mr. Rogers, of the 11th of February.”

“I have since, waited on the postmaster general; and I showed him both letters. I cannot learn what charges are made against Mr. Rogers; or indeed, that any are exhibited, still, there may be charges, as you suppose, for upon this point, I have not been able to obtain any information; I am satisfied, however, that Mr. Rogers will not be removed from office, unless it shall appear to the postmaster general, that a change is required on account of misconduct in office, or some good public reason.”

" Please to make my compliments to Mr. Rogers, and show him this letter. With respect and esteem, yours' obediently."

NATHAN SANFORD."

Myron Beach, Esq.

(CC.)

Washington County, ss.—Isaac W. Clary, Harlow C. Wetherill, Calvin L. Parker, Daniel Hervey, Calvin Jillson, Russel T. Green, being duly sworn depose and say—That they are well acquainted with Slade D. Brown, the late Postmaster of the town of Hartford, in the county of Washington, that they live in the village (or within one and a half miles thereof) where the Post Office was kept while said Slade was such Postmaster, and have often done business with him as Postmaster, and never heard or saw any thing with respect to the transacting the business of said office by him, otherwise than as a fair, faithful and honest officer—nor do we believe any good cause existed at any time for removing him from said office, and we do further say, that we have ever understood and believe that he was so removed from political motives alone, and merely because he was a supporter of the administration of the state of New-York, as he has always professed himself in favour of the administration of the national government and still does so. We have also been informed and verily believe, that only ten persons signed the petition for his removal, and those warmly opposed to said S. D. Brown in politics; and that one hundred and three of his neighbours and townsmen signed a remonstrance against his removal, fifty-three of whom were opposed to him in politics, as respects the state administration.

Isaac W. Clary, H. C. Wetherill, Calvin L. Parker, Daniel Hervey,
Calvin Jillson, Russell T. Green.

Sworn this 6th day of January, 1821, before me,

DAVID AUSTIN, Commissioner, &c.

(DD)

" At a county convention, composed of five republican delegates, elected and chosen by and from each of the fifteen towns in the county of Herkimer, and state of New York, held at the public inn of Benjamin Kelsey, in the village & town of Herkimer, on the 30th October, 1820, of which the hon. John Herkimer, was chairman, and Abijah Mann, jun. secretary, it was unanimously

" *Resolved*, That a due regard to republican principles, and the maintenance and support of the republican party, demands the prompt removal from office of David Holt, the present post master in the village and town of Herkimer aforesaid. It was also unanimously

" *Resolved*, That Jabez Fox, Esq. of the said village of Herkimer, be, and he is hereby recommended to the hon. the post master general, as a fit

and proper person to be appointed post master in said village, and that the said convention have every reason to expect that the wishes of this county, thus expressed, will be listened to with attention by the head of the post office department, and his pleasure made known as soon as may consist with the duties of his office, and his own personal convenience.

Signed by order of said convention.

JOHN HERKIMER, Chairman.

A. MANN, Secretary.

(EE)

To the post master general of the United States.

The undersigned, inhabitants of the village of Herkimer, in the county of Herkimer, have this moment learned with extreme surprise that a petition has been in a most secret manner, circulated for the removal of David Holt, Esq. from the office of post master in said village, and for the appointment of Jabez Fox, to said office. Mr. Holt has always discharged the duties of that office with perfect satisfaction to all the inhabitants doing business at the office. We esteem him as a most faithful and valuable public officer, and should consider his removal as a severe injury to the inhabitants. Mr. Fox has very recently come to reside in the village. No one has had any information of his application, we presume, but those who have signed his petition; and we now are wholly uninformed of the reasons assigned for the change. We do, from a full and perfect knowledge of the two men, beg leave most seriously to remonstrate against the removal of Mr. Holt, and even should he be removed, we hesitate not to state, that in our opinion, Mr. Fox is a very improper man to fill that office.

All which is respectfully submitted,

Simon Ford, district attorney of the county of Herkimer; Abijah Tombling, surrogate; Frederick Bellinger, county treasurer; Windsor Maynard, justice peace; James Byers, merchant; Philo M. Hackley, merchant; Thomas G. Barnum, merchant; Robert Shoemaker, sheriff of the county; Michael Myers, inn keeper; Edward P. Seymour, printer; Jacob Barrill, jun. merchant; George Petrie, late merchant; Horace Morse, merchant; Lauren Ford, attorney at law; John Welles, late keeper stage house; Wm. B. Goff, attorney at law; Ralph Merry, gaoler of Herkimer county; H. Whiting, keeper stage house; Wm. Anthony, watch repairer; Bela Fosgate, druggist; Henry Hopkins, former sheriff of Herkimer; Harvey Hackley, merchant.

I certify the above to be a true copy of a letter now on file in the general post office

THOMAS ARBUCKLE, Clerk.

The undersigned does not wish to express any unfavourable opinion of Mr. Fox, at the same time considers it his duty to say, that in case of a removal of Mr. Holt, the public will soon discover the loss of a vigilant, attentive, and obliging officer.

If philanthropy can be called in question, with the emoluments of the of-

face, Mr. Holt's family need it—if industry has a claim, Mr. Holt deserves it.

WALTER FISH, clerk of the county of Herkimer.

Herkimer, 5th May, 1820.

State of New York, Herkimer county, ss.—David Holt, being duly sworn, saith, That for several years past, he has held the office of post master in the village of Herkimer; that on or about the 5th day of May last past, he received information, that a petition or petitions, subscribed by citizens unfriendly to the present governor of this state, had been transmitted to the post master general, praying for the deponent's removal, and for the appointment of Jabez Fox in his stead, and that the removal was solicited from political motives, without any complaint on the part of said citizens of mal-conduct in office on the part of said deponent. That upon the reception of this information, it was communicated to a neighbour of the deponent, who thereupon, unsolicited, wrote a letter to the post master general, remonstrating against both the contemplated removal and appointment, which letter was subscribed by citizens who have paid, perhaps three-fourths of all the postage received at the Herkimer post office for years past, which letter was sent per mail directed to the post master general, and a copy of which, furnished by Mr. Meigs, (as the deponent is informed, and believes to be true) is hereunto annexed. That upon the return from Washington of the member of congress from this district, in May or June last, this deponent called upon, and conversed with him, upon the subject, when the said member informed the deponent that he left Washington previous to the arrival there of the said letter to the post master general, but that there was no specific charge exhibited against the deponent, and that the post master general would do nothing further upon the papers then before him. That in the early part of November last, the deponent was informed, that at a convention of delegates of the political party opposed to the executive of this state, held at Herkimer, on the 30th of October last, a resolution was passed, to make another application to the post master general for the removal of the deponent, and the appointment of Mr. Fox. That several of the members of said convention, have informed this deponent, that they knew of no charges against him in his official capacity as post master, and that political motives governed said convention. That on or about the 7th of December inst. the said Jabez Fox, exhibited to this deponent, a commission for himself as post master, and a supersedeas, or an order from the post master general, for this deponent to deliver to said Fox, the keys, letters, &c. belonging to the post office in this place. That the deponent now understands that one cause assigned by the post master general for his removal, is, that the deponent "*is considerably in arrears in payment.*" That if this allegation be true, it is a fact that cannot be known, at the general post office, to which receipts had been sent for every dollar that had been asked for of this deponent. That the payment of monies due from the post office in Herkimer to the general post office, has been in-

variably made, with a single exception, for many years past, upon drafts drawn upon the post master in favour of mail contractors; and that previous to the removal of the deponent, no draft upon him had ever been protested nor had the contractors ever complained to him of any want of promptitude on his part, although from irregularity in drawing, he had been compelled to pay nearly the amount of three years' balances within the present year. That the only complaint ever received by the deponent from the general post office, was contained in a *printed circular* letter, some time in the year 1819, it being a call for quarterly returns in arrears, and stating that in case of continued failure on the part of the deponent, a prosecution of his bond would be directed. That no correspondence between the post master general and the deponent relative to the removal of the deponent has ever taken place, and no intimation of said removal, for any cause whatsoever, has ever been received by this deponent, from any person connected with, or attached to the general post office; and further the deponent saith not.

DAVID HOLT.

Subscribed and sworn to this 26th day of December, 1820,

before me,

WINDSOR MAYNARD, justice peace.

(FF)

My dear sir,

Our sufferings, owing to the rascality of deputy post-masters, is intolerable, and cries aloud for relief. We find it absolutely impossible to penetrate the interior with our papers, and unless we can attain them by two or three prompt removals, there is no limiting the injurious consequences that may result from it; let me, therefore entreat the post-master general to do an act of justice, and render us a partial service, by the removal of Holt in Herkimer, and the appointment of Jabez Fox, Esq. also of Howell of Bath, and the appointment of an excellent friend W. B. Rochester, Esq. a young man of the first respectability and worth in the state, and the removal of Smith at Little Falls, and the appointment of Hollister, and the removal of Chamberlin in Oxford, and the appointment of Lot Clark, Esq. I am in extreme haste, and can, therefore, add no more—use the enclosed papers according to your discretion—if any thing is done, let it be quickly done, and you may rely upon it, much good will result from it.

Yours affectionately,

M. V. BUREN.

The hon. Henry Meigs.

April 4, 1820.

Hon. R. J. Meigs, Jun.

Sir,—From various representations which have been made to me in regard to mal-practices of the post-master at Norwich, I most cordially unite

with Mr. Van Buren, in recommending his removal and the appointment of Mr. Lot Clark.

Very respectfully yours,

JOHN R. DRAKE.

April 15th, 1820.

I certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of letters on file in the general post-office.

THOMAS ARBUCKLE.

Clerk of Appointments.

21st of November, 1820.

State of New-York, Otsego county, ss—Joseph S. Lyman, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith, that on the 13th or 14th day of May last, Robert Monell, Esq, member of congress, from the county of Chenango, state of New-York, informed this deponent that he had received a letter from Nathan Chamberlain of said county of Chenango, apprising him, that he, the said Chamberlain, had been removed from the office of post-master ; that in compliance with the request of Mr. Chamberlain, he had called on he post-master general for the purpose of learning the cause of his removal, but had failed in the attempt, the post-master general assigning as a reason for not showing him the papers on which the removal was grounded, that the clerk who filed them was absent from the office. Mr. Monell likewise informed this deponent that he had discovered from the inspection of a book at the office, that Stephen B. Leonard, of the county of Broome, in the state aforesaid, had also been recently removed from the office of post-master. On Monday, the 15th day of May, aforesaid, this deponent in company with Mr. Monell, called on the post-master general, at his office, with a determination, if possible, to ascertain the causes of the removal of Messrs. Chamberlain and Leonard, and what were the charges of mal-conduct, if any, which had been preferred against them. After some delay, the post-master general, with apparent hesitation and reluctance, produced a letter from the hon. Martin Van Buren, of the state of New-York, to Henry Meigs, Esq. member of congress from the city of New-York, and handed it to Mr. Monell, observing, *I suppose it will make you angry.* According to the present impressions of this deponent there were subjoined to the letter a few lines signed by John R. Drake, expressing his concurrence in the recommendation of the removal of Messrs. Chamberlain and Leonard. The post-master general, on being asked whether this letter was the only paper on file on which the removals were founded, replied that he believed it was. Leave was asked of him to take a copy of the letter, but refused. This deponent, observed to the post-master general, that the letter appeared to be on file in the office, and must be considered a public document, and expressed his surprise, that Mr. Monell and himself should be refused a copy, representing as they did, the district in which Messrs. Chamberlain and Leonard resided. The post-master general, however, persisted in his refusal. He was told by Mr. Monell, or the deponent, that they were convinced from facts and circumstances disclosed, that the removals were to be attributed to causes of a

political nature—the persons removed being friendly, and their successors hostile, to the re-election of Gov. Clinton. According to the best of this deponent's recollection, the post-master general denied having been influenced by political considerations, in making the removals; but no reasons were assigned by him for making them but what are contained in Mr. Van Buren's letter, and the concurrent recommendation of Mr. Drake; and further this deponent saith not.

J. S. LYMAN.

Sworn and subscribed before me, Dec 29th, 1820.

E. B. MOREHOUSE. Com. &c.

District of Columbia ss.—Robert Monell, of the county of Chenango, and state of New-York, being duly sworn, according to law, deposeth and saith that on the thirteenth day of May, 1820, he received a letter from Nathan Chamberlain, of Norwich, in Chenango county, stating that he had been removed from the office of post-master at that place and Lot Clark appointed, and requested this deponent to ascertain from the Post-Master General the cause of his removal. And this deponent further says, that on the said 13th day of May last past, he called upon the Post Master General and inquired of him why Mr. Chamberlain had been removed, to which inquiry Mr. Meigs, the post-master general, replied that charges of misconduct were preferred against Chamberlain—that the clerk who filed papers of that kind was not in the office and the papers could not then be seen, that he would have the substance of the charges brought against Chamberlain copied and sent to the residence of this deponent.

And this deponent further says, that on an examination of the book where the removal of Chamberlain was entered, he discovered that Stephen B. Leonard, of Owego, in the county of Broome, was also removed, and that the removals of Chamberlain and Leonard were entered on the book as having taken place on the recommendation of John R. Drake, of Owego, in said county of Broome: this deponent remarked to the Post Master General, that it was very extraordinary that removals should be made in the district he represented without notice to this deponent, as he had always understood that the members of congress were uniformly advised by the Post-Master General of all applications for removals in their districts, and that he was confident Messrs. Chamberlain and Leonard had not been removed on the recommendation of Judge Drake alone; that political considerations must have produced the removals: that these men were the friends of Mr. Clinton, and had supported him for governor of New York. And this deponent further says, that on the evening of the same day, he addressed a note to the Post-Master General requesting him to furnish this deponent with copies of the charges against Messrs. Chamberlain and Leonard, and the names of the persons who preferred them, to which note no reply was received.

And this deponent further says, that on the 15th day of May last, he, together with Mr. Lyman, a member of congress from Otsego county, New-

York, called upon the post master general, and pressed him to see the papers on which the removals had taken place. Mr. Meigs replied as on the 13th, that the clerk who filed such papers was not in the office, and he could not then show them to this deponent and the said Lyman; either Mr. Lyman or this deponent then stated to the post master general, that we had come determined to know what charges were alleged against the removed post masters, and unless an express refusal was given, we should remain in the office until the papers could be seen. The post master general, apparently with reluctance, handed to this deponent a letter written by Martin Van Buren, Esq. to Henry Meigs, Esq. a member of congress for the city of New York, a certified copy of which is subjoined, and which copy was obtained from the post master general, on the day it is certified to be given. When the letter was handed to this deponent, the post master general expressed a doubt whether he ought to show the letter, as he knew it would displease us. And this deponent further saith, that the post master general informed this deponent, that the removals took place on the 15th day of April. 1820.

And this deponent further says, that the P. M. G. was asked, whether there were any other papers or charges than the letter of Mr. Van Buren, and the concurrence of Judge Drake, he replied there were none. Permission was asked to take a copy of the letter, and refused on the allegation that it was a *private letter* to Henry Meigs. To this it was replied, that the letter appeared to be on the files of the office, and must be considered a public document, and that as representatives of the district in which removals had been made, we thought ourselves entitled to a copy. It was again refused by the post-master general. The post-master general was told, that all the gentlemen (as was believed) named for removal in Mr. Van Buren's letter, were uniform republicans; that it was now evident, they were removed for supporting Mr. Clinton for Governor of the state of New-York. This deponent, has since his arrival at Washington this session, obtained from the post-master general, a copy of Mr. Van Buren's letter, and it is now certified to be on the *files of the office*.

And this deponent further says, that the foregoing relation, is the substance of two conversations with the P. M. G. and further says not.

ROBERT MONELL.

Sworn and subscribed this 11th day of Dec. 1820, before me,
WILLIAM D. FORD, com. &c.

Norwich Chenango county, Jan. 10, 1821.

We the subscribers, resident citizens and freeholders of the town of Norwich, do certify, that we were severally acquainted intimately with Nathan Chamberlin, Esq. late deputy post-master in the village of Norwich, and with the manner in which he kept and conducted said office. That Mr. Chamberlin sustained an unblemished character; that he was a gen-

tieman of amiable and conciliating manners, and that he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens. That in the discharge of the duties of his said office, he was unusually attentive, and particularly careful and correct. That Mr. Chamberlin, since our first acquaintance with him, has been thought a mild and temperate, yet an uniform and efficient republican.

James Birdsall, Loring Fenten, Truman Enos, I. S. Fenten, John Randall, Hezekiah Brown, Jonathan Johnson, Hascall Ransford, Thomas Milner.

I certify, that between the date of the above certificate, and this 13th day of January, 1821, the several persons whose names are subscribed to said certificate, personally came before me, and severally made solemn oath to the same, and that I fully assent to the facts therein stated.

DAVID BUTTOLPH, one of the judges of Chenango com. pleas.

(GG.)

We do hereby certify, that we have been well acquainted with Mr. Samuel Smith, late post-master at said village, before and during the respective periods he held that office; and state that we believe he did perform the duties of that office with impartiality, integrity and fidelity, and that we were, and are in the habit of receiving letters and papers at this post-office, and know of no just or proper cause for his removal from that office.

George Rosecrants, George H. Feeter, John M'Combs, James Kennedy, Thomas Smith, O. G. Otis, Wm. Girvan, Richard Petrie, Robert Henchman, John Philips, Thomas Gould.

Dated 29th Dec. 1820.

State of New-York, county of Herkimer, ss.—Samuel Smith being sworn on the holy evangelists of God, deposeth and saith, that on the fourth day of May now last past, and for a considerable time previous, this deponent was a post-master at the village of Little Falls, in the county aforesaid. That on, or about the day aforesaid, this deponent was served with a supersedeas to his said office of post-master by Anson Hollister of the said village, and that the said Hollister, thereupon took charge of the post office at the said village. That this deponent, had no information or knowledge from any person that he was to be removed, nor knew that any thing was done or doing to effect his removal, until he actually was removed as aforesaid. Nor was the same until then known, or suspected by the friends of this deponent, or by the friends of the administration of this state, nor to the public or the inhabitants of the village of Little Falls generally, as this deponent is informed and believes true. Nor had the

post-master general held any communication with this deponent respecting his said removal. Nor did the post-master general at any time before or since the removal of this deponent, express or intimate to this deponent, that he had any reason whatever of complaint against this deponent, or that any other person or persons had suggested any cause of complaint against this deponent, in relation to the discharge of any of the duties of said office. Nor is this deponent to this day, informed either that there was, or that there was made, any complaint against this deponent, except it be that he was friendly to the present administration of this state, and this deponent hath no doubt that his removal as aforesaid was caused thereby.— And this deponent further saith, that the said Hollister hath been reputed, and no doubt is strongly opposed to the present administration of this state. And that the said removal was made, before any public expression was made of the opinion of the inhabitants particularly interested in the said post office, and before any opportunity was given therefor.

SAMUEL SMITH.

Subscribed and sworn before me, this 5th of Jan. 1821.

JOHN M'COMB, just. peace.

(HH)

Letter from the Post-Master General, transmitting a List of the names of persons who are Contractors for conveying the Mail of the United States, and are at the same time Post Masters, and the compensations of such mail contractors and post-masters.

Dec. 5, 1820.

General Post-Office, }
Dec. 2d, 1820. }

SIR,

In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives, I have the honour to inclose a List of Mail Contractors, who are at the same time Post-Masters.

I have the honour to be,

Respectfully,

Your obedient Servant,

R. J. MEIGS, jr.

HON. JOHN W. TAYLOR,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

A List of Mail Contractors, who are at the same time Post Masters, and the compensation of such Contractors and Post-Masters, designating the State or Territory in which they respectively reside.

	Compensation as Contractors.	Compensation as Post-Masters.
	per ann.	per ann.
Cephas L. Lockwood, Chester, Vermont,	\$563 48	\$59 53
John Aaronson, Black Horse New Jersey,	80 00	22 27
John Adamson, Montgomery Court House, Maryland,	375 00	111 45
Joel Butler, Columbus, Ohio,	600 00	370 46
Horatio Catlett, Catlettsburg, Kentucky,	970 00	21 25
James Clark, Somerset Pennsylvania,	932 00	119 01
Peter Engle, Barbourville, Kentucky,	400 00	54 35
Aaron Hackney, Mercer, Pennsylvania,	104 00	122 59
Charles L. Hutter, Allen Town, Pennsylvania,	400 00	150 58
Adam Johnston, Coshocton, Ohio,	400 00	51 73
John McKinney jr. Bell Air, Maryland,	900 00	87 66
Richard Marsh, Rahway, New-Jersey,	45 00	256 80
Jacob Walter, Lewistown, Pennsylvania	250 00	235 97
Joseph Aborn, New Iberia, Louisiana	880 00	54 27
John Butt, Warrenton, Georgia,	4000 00	152 24
Richard L. Cook, Hillsborough, North Carolina,	250 00	187 55
George W. Earle, Greenville Court House, South Carolina,	900 00	114 32
Edward Featherston, Montgomery Court House, Georgia,	800 00	28 44
Wm B. Holzdorf, Darien, Georgia,	2700 00	464 76
Alexander Hawthorn, Morgantown, Virginia,	730 00	142 71
Stephen Herrunau, Avoyells, Louisiana,	200 00	42 74
James Hewett, Washington, Mississippi,	11500 00	148 64
Darling Jones, Liberty, Mississippi,	800 00	78 78
George Kennedy, Chester c. h. South Carolina,	130 00	170 38
James G. Lyon, St. Stephens, Alabama,	2254 00	438 08
John Mullen, Moorefields, Virginia,	670 00	98 32
Peter Lamar, Lincolnton, Georgia,	750 00	55 78
Garrison M. Smith, Winton, North Carolina,	225 00	40 40
Harry Toulmen, Fort Stoddard, Alabama,	4464 00	19 04
William Walker, Great Bridge, Virginia,	450 00	11 79
William P. Waugh, Walkesborough, North Carolina,	1145 00	78 33
William Woodydy, Leesburgh, Virginia,	940 00	301 31
Peter B. Bealls, Burton, Ohio,	150 00	36 74
Barnabas Dickerson, Denmark, New-York,	2800 00	42 79
William D. Waples, Millsborough, Delaware,	2490 00	19 65
Gabriel Nourse, Sharpsburgh, Maryland,	550 00	48 39
Thomas Watson, Newbern, North Carolina,	300 00	529 79
Jonah Hood, Aldie, Virginia,	400 00	34 46
German Jordan, Campbell c. h. Virginia,	1786 80	14 92
Nathaniel Pendleton, Hull's store, Virginia,	200 00	7 64
Henry P. Wilcox, Marietta, Ohio,†	1400 00	1311 71
William Gholson, Gholsonville, Virginia,	936 00	40 00
Elijah Carpenter, Russia, New-York,	450 00	34 22
John Fords, Fords, Mississippi,	500 00	64 50
William McCluney, Brook c. h. Virginia,	1000 00	152 02
William Murphy, Washington, Kentucky,†	600 00	2000 00
David Osborn, Scotch Plains, New-Jersey,	34 00	19 40
Gaius B. Rich, Attica, New-York,	75 00	43 25
Hartwell H. Tarver, Tarver's Mills, Georgia,	200 00	9 80
George Brown, jr. Brownsville, New-York,*	296 60	201 35
Samuel Heldreth, Pittsford, New-York,*	1440 00	80 07
Samuel Morrison, Rogers' Mills, New-York,*	100 00	4 36
Frederick Paine, Winslow, Maine,*	52 00	26 12
Sidney Tuttle, Windham, New-York,*	120 00	28 88
Stephen Towne, Kennebunk, Port, Maine,*	50 00	68 28
William Wickham, Troupsville, New-York,*	200 00	31 67
Benjamin Whettier, Belfast, Maine,*	140 00	174 39
Cyrenus Noble, Pittsfield, New-York,*	140 00	17 27

Note.—Those marked thus * now holding contracts for carrying the mail; the same will expire on the 31st of December, 1820, and have not been renewed. Those having this mark † are distributing offices.

(II)

Oswego, Dec. 20, 1820.

His Excellency De Witt Clinton,—Sir,

In answer to your request of the 23d ultimo, I have the honor of stating the following circumstances relative to my removal from the office of post-master in this village.

I received my appointment from the hon. J. Meigs, in February, 1816, and in the November following, contracted in person, at the department in Washington, for conveying a mail from this village to *Benton*, in the county of Ontario. In the fall of 1817, I contracted for several routes, to the amount of \$1500 per year, which contracts have not yet expired. I was removed from the office of Postmaster on the 15th April, 1820, being about four years from the date of the first, and three years from the date of the second contract.

With respect to the *motives* for my removal, it may appear difficult to reconcile the cause assigned by the Post Master General, with the facts of the case above stated; especially, as so many others have continued to this day to retain both the station of Post Master and contractor; and, from the respect I have always entertained for Mr. Meigs, the personal assurances of friendship he has given me, and the approbation he has expressed of my official conduct, induces a belief, that he has been importuned and deceived into the measure, by some of those unprincipled and intriguing politicians with whom I had the honor to differ, as it respects the local politics of my native state.

Subjoined you have a true copy of the only communication I have received from the P. M. G. on the subject of my removal. With sentiments of respect, I am, sir, your obedient servant.

S. B. LEONARD.

His Excellency De Witt Clinton.

(JJ)

I hereby certify, that some time about the beginning of April last, I was requested to attend a meeting of officers at Tammany Hall, for the purpose, as was said, of drilling them, for an intended procession, in honour of Daniel D. Tompkins, Esq. I attended the meeting, at which general John Swartwout, commanded, gen. Joseph S. Swift, United States surveyor of the port of New York, was present; also, gen. Robert Swartwout, navy agent, gen. Giles, military store keeper of the United States, Lieut. Flinn, of the navy, capt. Evans, of the navy of the United States, and superintendent of the navy yard at Brooklyn, and many other officers of the United States army and navy.

There was a correspondence between the meeting and the vice president relative to the time of his intended arrival here, from Albany, in which correspondence the vice president was to give information as to the time

when he was to arrive, so that the procession might be in readiness to meet him. I was informed that the revenue cutter of the United States was to meet the vice president, some distance north of the city, to take him out of the steam boat, and bring him into town; and which was actually done.— Every thing appeared as an organized plan to pay respect to Mr. Tompkins, with a view to promote the interests of his election—and I was so well convinced that the meeting was entirely political, and inimical to the New York state administration, that I withdrew from the meeting, and did not attend the public procession, although my name was published in the Advocate, as one of the attendants.

CHARLES N. BALDWIN.

New York, Dec. 1820.

(K K)

I do hereby certify that some time in November last, at the public breakfast table at Washington Hall, I heard Doct. J. W. Sackett, surgeon at the hospital on one of the Islands, after grossly and violently abusing Gov. Clinton, declare, that he had discharged the Baker, who supplied the hospital with bread, because he would not vote for Daniel D. Tompkins at the last election—and the above declaration was made in the presence of Messrs. John Bogere and Renicke.

CHARLES PINDAR.

Greensburgh, Dec. 1820.

I certify that I was present at the public breakfast table at the Washington Hall in the city of New-York, in November last, and I heard J. H. Sackett, U. S. surgeon, make the declaration stated in the foregoing certificate, signed by Charles Pindar, Esq. and I hereby certify, that I heard the said J. H. Sackett also further declare, that he took an active part in the election in April last, and that he, the said J. H. Sackett, brought up several (*four or five*) soldiers to vote at the poll.

JNO. BOGERE.

Washington Hall, December 31st, 1820.

(L L)

I do hereby certify, that I have heard Jno. Kuerrenger repeatedly declare since the last election, that Peter Dieterich, a quarter master in the U. S. service, (at West Point) was very active during the election, and stated that he called with a carriage, and insisted on his going with him to vote for Daniel D. Tompkins, as governor of the state of New-York.— The said Jno. Kuerrenger is willing to testify to that fact when called on.

THOMAS VAN BEUREN.

New-York, December 26, 1820.

(MM)

This is to certify that I attended the poll at the sixth ward election last spring for Governor, Lt. Governor, Senators and Assemblymen, for this state, for the purpose of taking down the names of all the voters—that I there saw a gentleman with a cockade, a U. S. officer, who they called by name Doctor Sackett—that he was very active in handing out tickets, and prevailing upon all he could, to support the tickets hostile to the present state administration of Gov. Clinton—that he offered himself to vote, and was refused on the challenge of Justice Roollett—that I afterwards understood he voted in the first ward by his own bragging, and that I heard him avow his quarters were on one of the Islands in this harbour.

JOHN McDERMOTT.

New-York, December 23d, 1820.

(NN)

I, Daniel M. Frye, of Montgomery, in the county of Orange, do certify, that Charles Borland, Jun. attorney at law and post master at Wards-bridge, in said town, acted as an inspector at the general election in April, 1820, (being town clerk.)

That on the third day of the election which was held in the village of Montgomery, Mr. Samuel McKinstry a substantial freeholder of said town, in the right of his wife, presented himself at the poll and offered his suffrage for Governor and Senators. Mr. Borland refused to receive it, alleging that said McKinstry was not a freeholder—I then stated to the board that the wife of McKinstry enjoyed an estate for life in a valuable farm which they all well knew, & gave it as my opinion that he was entitled to a vote. Mr. Borland said that I had no right to say any thing on the subject—and again refused to let McKinstry vote, but without consulting the other inspectors.

David Ruggles, Esq. then came forward in behalf of McKinstry, and insisted that he was qualified to vote—he explained to the inspectors what constituted a freehold estate, but was contradicted by Mr. Borland. He then asked Mr. Borland if “he would undertake to say as a lawyer, that McKinstry had no right to vote, or that an estate in dower, was not a freehold estate”—Mr. Borland said “yes” upon which Mr. Ruggles observed that “he was either grossly ignorant in the law, or intended to mislead the board of inspectors.” Mr. Borland however still persisted in refusing to receive the vote, when Mr. Blake, another of the inspectors, proposed that McKinstry should take the oath prescribed by the statute, which was accordingly administered to him, and after Mr. Borland had examined him, he still insisted that he should not vote; but the other inspectors being of opinion that he had a right to vote, he was permitted to do so.

I do also certify, that at the said election one Abraham Moul was per-

mitted to vote for governor and senators. That in February last, all the real estate of said Moul was sold at sheriff's sale and purchased by me and a deed therefor executed and delivered to me by the sheriff. That the said Charles Borland, Jun. was one of the attorneys who obtained the judgment upon which the said property was sold, that after the sale, I paid the costs to said Borland, and told him I had purchased the property, and the said property has ever since belonged to me.

I do also certify that at the said election, I thought proper to challenge several votes, but Mr. Borland would not permit me to interrogate those whom I had challenged, and decided that none but the inspectors had a right to do so.

DANIEL M. FRYE.

Montgomery, January 8, 1821.

I Samuel McKinstry, of Montgomery, in the county of Orange, do hereby certify, that Charles Borland, Jun. Esq. post master at Wardsbridge and town clerk of Montgomery, aforesaid, was one of the inspectors of the election for members of the senate and assembly, held in the town of Montgomery, in the year 1819. That prior to the said election, I had not publicly expressed my political opinions, and have good reason to believe that the same were unknown to the said Charles Borland, Jun.

That upon offering my vote for senators at said election, my right to vote was challenged by some person then present, upon which I stated that I claimed a right to such vote by reason of an estate in dower belonging to my wife, and the said Charles Borland, Jun. then one of the said inspectors, thereupon decided that such estate gave me a legal right to vote for senators, and my vote was accordingly taken by the said inspectors.

And I further certify, that between that time and the election for governor of this state, which took place in the month of April last past, I had repeated conversations with various persons on political subjects, and that from an open avowal of my sentiments and opinions in relation thereto, I am well satisfied that it was publicly known, and that the said Charles Borland, Jun. knew that I approved the public measures of the present governor of this state, and that it was my intention to vote for him as well as for the senatorial candidates then understood to be friendly to his administration.

And I further certify, that the said Charles Borland, Jun. was also one of the inspectors of the election for governor, senators and members of assembly, which election was held in said town of Montgomery, in the month of April last past, and that at that election I offered to the inspectors thereof my vote for governor and senators, at which time the said Charles Borland, Jun. challenged my right to give such votes, upon which I insisted that I had a right to give the same by reason of the said estate in dower of my said wife, the same being worth more than two hundred and fifty dollars, but the said Borland, without taking the opinion of the other inspectors, decided that such estate did not entitle me to such vote.

Immediately after the occurrence above stated, David Ruggles, Esq. of the said town of Montgomery being present, addressed the said inspectors and pointed out to them what constituted a freehold estate and insisted that my votes should be taken, when the said Charles Borland, Jun. interrupted him, and asserted that the said Ruggles had no right to address the said inspectors, and that I had no right to be heard by counsel; to which the said Ruggles replied that he was speaking in his own behalf, and in behalf of the public, in support of a public right, and one which he would not submit to have taken from him, or words to the like effect; after which the said Ruggles repeated to the inspectors the requisites to constitute an estate of freehold, and stated to them that estates in dower were expressly recognized and instanced freehold estates by Judge Blackstone in his commentaries on the laws of England, to which the said Borland replied "its no such thing." The said Ruggles thereupon addressed himself to the said Borland and enquired "do you, sir, as a lawyer undertake to say that an estate in dower is not a freehold estate?" the said Borland replied 'yes,' upon which the said Ruggles replied "then sir you either intend to mislead the board of inspectors, or you are ignorant of what is the law."

Some personal altercation then took place between the said Ruggles and the said Borland, which it is unnecessary to detail, after which, upon taking the oath prescribed by the statute, and stating that my votes were offered upon the right of dower aforesaid of my wife, I was allowed to put the same into the ballot boxes.

SAMUEL MCKINSTRY.

Montgomery, Orange county, Jaurary 6, 1821.

I David Ruggles, of Montgomery, in the county of Orange, do hereby certify that I have read the certificate of Samnel McKinstry, hereunto annexed. That I was present at the poll of the said election in the said town of Montgomery, in the month of April, 1820, and that the facts stated in the said certificate relative to the attempt of Charles Borland, jr. Esq. post master at Wardsbridge, and one of the inspectors of the election, to exclude the vote of the said McKinstry, are correctly stated and set forth in the certificate aforesaid according to the best of my recollection and belief.

DAVID RUGGLES.

January 6th, 1821.





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